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**UKRAINIAN
HELSINKI
HUMAN RIGHTS
UNION**

REPORT ON RESULTS OF MONITORING VISIT OF UKRAINIAN HELSINKI HUMAN RIGHTS UNION

Purpose of the visit: documenting of the evidence of the hostage, who was held in captivity in the territory not controlled by the Government of Ukraine

Location of the visit: Myrhorod, Poltava oblast

Date of the visit: March 16, 2016

Documentator (interviewer): XXXXX

VISIT DESCRIPTION

Respondents:

- XXXXX, born in XXXX;
- XXXXX, born in XXXX.

The interviewees testified that they lived in Sverdlovsk of Luhansk oblast. The husband worked at the mine "XXXXX" of DTEK "Sverdlovantratsyt" Ltd. as a miner stope. His wife worked XXXXX. During the military operations they left the city, but later returned. In winter of 2015 unknown people began to call the wife and offer her to visit a commandant's office in order to give some evidence. The man took his wife and their child to XXX and returned to Sverdlovsk alone to his place of employment.

In February 2015 two armed men in uniform broke into their apartment, located at XXXXX (Sverdlovsk, Luhansk oblast) while the husband was at home. They said they were from the so-called "Sverdlovsk commandant's office", but at the same time, they did not give their last names (code names were "Grom" and "Molniya"). They started demanding the money and car, then beat him, searched the apartment, took the money in the amount of about eight thousand UAH, forced the man to use his phone to call his wife. Then they snatched the phone out, started threatening that they would kill her husband if she did not pay them ransom and bring the car XXX. They said that they would take the husband away and he would be freed only after they receive the money and car. These armed people took all the money, keys, documents (including real estate ones) and other material valuables from the victims' apartment.

For several days his wife did not know where her husband was and what happened to him. Their friends who live in Sverdlovsk found out that he was being kept in the basement of the so-called "Sverdlovsk commandant's office" at Leninskogo Komsomola Str. (previously – the Command Office of the Sverdlovsk Border Detachment). For about two weeks several people had been calling her demanding ransom. They offered to have an exchange in the territory of the Russian Federation close to the customs checkpoint "Hoptivka" (Belgorod oblast, Russia).

The man was being detained in the basement of the commandant's office for more than one month in 2015. At the same time he was subjected to physical and moral violence, forced to physical work up to 20 hours per day (he worked in a kitchen, was brought to the site to unload ammunition etc.). From 5 to 15 people were detained simultaneously in a cell of about 5 square meters. They were fed once a day.

The above mentioned people took over the victim's property in Sverdlovsk, Luhansk oblast, namely two apartments and a house.

During the detainment, the man had a crisis (sharp health deterioration), because he suffers from diabetes, and he was not provided with medicine. Only later they began to give him some medicine. During the medical examination after his release, type II diabetes and heart problems were revealed.

Photos of people involved in kidnapping and torture were found in social networks and shown to the victims. Several militants were identified, including the group leader.

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